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Fifty-fourth session
Second Committee
Agenda items 99 and 100

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation

Environment and sustainable development

Letter dated 12 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Cameroon addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the Declaration of the Summit of Central African Heads of State on the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests, held at Yaoundé from 12 to 17 March 1999, which was attended by the Heads of State of Cameroon, the Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, the Central African Republic and Chad.

At the appropriate time the delegation of Cameroon, on behalf of the aforementioned countries, intends to submit a draft resolution on the conservation and sustainable management of the subregion's forests; in the meantime, I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of this Declaration issued as a document of the Second Committee, under agenda items 99 and 100.

(Signed) Martin **Belinga Eboutou**

99-29705 (E) 181099 181099

Annex

[Original: English and French]

Declaration issued on 17 March 1999 by the Summit of Central African Heads of State on the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests (Yaoundé Declaration)

At the invitation of His Excellency, Paul Biya, President of the Republic of Cameroon,

His Excellency Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of the Congo, represented by Henri Djombo, Minister of Forestry in charge of Fisheries and Water Resources,

His Excellency El Hadj Omar Bongo, President of the Gabonese Republic, represented by Mr. Didjob Divungi Di Ndinge, Vice-President of the Republic,

His Excellency Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbazogo, President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea,

His Excellency Ange Félix Patassé, President of the Central African Republic,

His Excellency, Idriss Deby, President of the Republic of Chad,

His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, Guest of Honour,

met in Yaounde on 17 March 1999 to examine matters relating to the conservation and sustainable management of forest ecosystems in Central Africa,

Concerned about the need to conserve and sustainably manage their forest ecosystems which are an important natural, universal and ecological resource for present and future generations,

Recalling the efforts made by each State and need to conserve these assets, which are socially, economically, and ecologically important,

Convinced that the sustainable management of forest resources can significantly contribute to the economic, social and cultural development of the States of the subregion,

Desiring to make concerted efforts to promote the rational use and sustainable development of forest resources through the conservation of the entire biodiversity,

Conscious of the importance of involving the population and the business community in the sustainable management of forest ecosystems,

Convinced of the important role of subregional and international cooperation in the management of forest ecosystems and the control of desert encroachment in line with commitments made by the international community,

Conscious of the sovereign role of the State in the drafting and implementation of laws and regulations to facilitate the sustainable management of natural resources,

The Heads of State proclaim:

Their attachment to the principle of biodiversity conservation and to the sustainable management of the forest ecosystems of Central Africa;

The right of their people to count on forest resources in promoting their economic and social development;

Their old belief in the need to tailor the requirements of economic and social development to biodiversity conservation within the framework of well-understood subregional and international cooperation;

Their interest in seeing the international community, which is quite aware of the ecological role of forests, set up an international mechanism for the financing of a trust fund to lend support, in a sustainable manner, to the countries of the subregion in their efforts to develop, conserve and carry out research on their forest ecosystems;

Their support of and solidarity with the Sahelian countries of Central Africa in their efforts to control desert encroachment.

They undertake to:

Accelerate the process of setting up protected transborder zones lying between Central African States and call on neighbouring countries to be part of the process by strengthening the sustainable management of the existing protected areas;

Develop an appropriate forestry tax system and the attendant implementation measures, which will, in the long term, lend support to the conservation, sustainable development of and research on forest ecosystems;

Adopt harmonized national forestry policies and step up efforts to draw up development instruments, notably harmonized certification systems recognized by the international community and approved by Central African States, and develop the human resources necessary for their implementation;

Step up efforts to increasingly involve the rural population in the planning and sustainable management of ecosystems and to leave enough space for their socio-economic development;

Ensure that economic operators are increasingly involved in the sustainable management and conservation of forest ecosystems;

Take steps to ensure that the programmes for developing forest ecosystems are in line with those for other sectors, notably reafforestation, transport and agriculture;

Make concerted efforts to stamp out large-scale poaching and any other non-sustainable exploitation in the subregion, in conjunction with all the parties, notably economic operators and the population;

Promote and increase the pace of industrialization in this sector and set up appropriate mechanisms for private sector financing with a view to maximizing added value and creating new and better jobs, without losing sight of the sustainable use of forest resources;

Promote national and subregional forums for the exchange of experiences, encourage the establishment of networks linking the relevant forest research and development institutions and strengthen coordination and cooperation between all the national and international organizations involved in the sustainable use and conservation of biological resources and forest ecosystems;

Establish in each State lasting mechanisms for financing forest development using revenue generated by the forestry sector and international cooperation;

Organize other summits on the conservation and sustainable management of forest ecosystems;

Lastly, the Heads of State hereby give the mandate to their Ministers in charge of the management and conservation of forest ecosystems to revive the Organization for Wildlife Conservation in Central Africa, in particular by transferring its headquarters to the Republic

of Cameroon, coordinate and ensure the implementation of the resolutions passed during this summit.

They thanked

His Excellency Paul Biya, President of the Republic of Cameroon, for the warm and, brotherly welcome he accorded them, for their comfortable stay in Yaoundé and for the smooth running of the first Summit of Central African Heads of State on the Conservation and Sustainable Management of tropical forests.

Done in Yaoundé on 17 March 1999.

(Signed)

His Excellency Paul Biya, President of the Republic of Cameroon

His Excellency Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of the Congo, represented by Henri Djombo, Minister of Forestry in charge of Fisheries and Water Resources

His Excellency El Hadj Omar Bongo, President of the Gabonese Republic, represented by Mr. Didjob Divungi Di Ndinge, Vice-President of the Republic

His Excellency Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbazogo, President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea

His Excellency Ange Félix Patassé, President of the Central African Republic

His Excellency Idriss Deby, President of the Republic of Chad

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United Nations A/C.2/54/6

General Assembly

Distr.: General
27 October 1999

Original: English

Fifty-fourth session
Second Committee
Agenda item 100 (d)
Environment and sustainable development: Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

Letter dated 26 October 1999 from the President of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its fifth session to the Chairman of the Second Committee

I refer to sub-item 100 (d) of the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly, "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind", currently under consideration by the Second Committee, and attach for the information of the Committee a decision relevant to the sub-item and adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at the second plenary meeting of its fifth session, on 25 October 1999 (see annex). By this decision, the Conference of the Parties invited the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session to decide on the issue of meeting the Convention's conference-servicing expenses from its regular budget, and also approved the continuation of the institutional linkage of the Convention secretariat to the United Nations, subject to review not later than 31 December 2001 in consultation with the Secretary-General, with a view to making such modification as may be considered desirable by both parties.

I would greatly appreciate your bringing the attached decision to the attention of the Second Committee and inviting the Committee to take it into account when recommending action by the General Assembly on sub-item 100 (d).

(*Signed*) Jan **Szyszko**
President of the Conference of the Parties at its fifth session

99-31783 (E) 291099

Annex

Decision __/CP.5
Institutional linkage of the Convention secretariat to the United Nations

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision 14/CP.1, whereby it decided that the Convention secretariat shall be institutionally linked to the United Nations, while not being fully integrated in the work programme and management structure of any department or programme, and decided further to review the functioning of the institutional linkage of the Convention secretariat to the United Nations, not later than 31 December 1999, in consultation with the Secretary-General, with a view to making such modifications as may be considered desirable by both parties,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 50/115 of 20 December 1995,

Taking note of the information provided by the Executive Secretary that the institutional linkage is working satisfactorily and is being adapted to changing circumstances,

Taking note also of the expression of intent by the Secretary-General to seek the endorsement of the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session for continuation of the institutional linkage,

1. *Invites* the United Nations General Assembly to decide at its fifty-fourth session on the issue of meeting the Convention's conference-servicing expenses from its regular budget, taking into account the views expressed by Member States;

2. *Approves* the continuation of the institutional linkage of the Convention secretariat to the United Nations, subject to review not later than 31 December 2001, in consultation with the Secretary-General, with a view to making such modifications as may be considered desirable by both parties.